

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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Nashville Scene Writer Chats With *The Bell Ringer*

by
Pat Killian
Features Editor

Caleb Hannan, a 2004 graduate of James Madison University and staff writer for the *Nashville Scene*, became Public Enemy #1 for the student body at Montgomery Bell Academy after authoring a blog post on *Pith in the Wind*, the *Scene*'s news blog. The post discussed MBA's cheers at a recent basketball game against rival Ensworth High School and their interpretation by members of the Ensworth community as racist taunts.

The post, however, was accompanied by a well-known photograph of an angry young fan that had an MBA waffle photoshopped onto it, and – despite being tagged as “things that aren’t really racist” – soon drew accusations of bias and slander from the MBA community. The blog soon erupted with angry posts from members of both schools; at the end of the day, it had amassed 466 comments.

Mr. Hannan, who was denounced in the posts as “a 12-year-old gossip girl” and told repeatedly to quit his job and “go and get a life,” discussed in an interview with the *Bell Ringer* his experience with the episode.

Bell Ringer: Could you elaborate on the *Nashville Scene* in general? What sort of audience does the paper target, and were your articles anything out of the ordinary

for the paper (as was widely accused in the online comments)?

Caleb Hannan: Like every other paper, we want to attract as large an audience as possible. We’re not so much interested in appealing to one type. We’re just trying to target Nashvillians who like a good story.

BR: How did the paper first hear about the incidents? Word is that there was an “undercover” reporter at the MBA vs BA game – any truth in that?

CH: Haha. Man, I wish we had the budget to embed “undercover” reporters, whatever that might look like (regular reporters in those fake ‘stache/glasses disguises?). No, I first heard about the MBA-Ensworth game from a reader. They called and told me about what they’d overheard. Then I made some calls to try and verify what I could.

BR: If I’m not mistaken, the articles were originally posted in a blog. What’s its focus? How did you end up with the article?

CH: *Pith [in the Wind]* is where we put anything that qualifies as “breaking news” or doesn’t warrant 800 words in the

paper. It’s also where we can try out all our newest bad jokes. So, win-win.

BR: Do you feel like people misinterpreted the tone/perspective of your pieces? When was the “things that aren’t really racist” tag added to the first post?

CH: The “things that aren’t really racist” tag was on there from the beginning. That’s why it was a little confusing that the first comment (of 400-something) accused us of racism. As a friend of mine says, blog comments are proof of the slow decline in reading comprehension.

BR: The accompanying picture (the angry young fan) drew a lot of fire. Your idea? In what spirit was it included?

CH: Silliness? I mean, it’s a kid flipping the bird. That’s pretty funny. The picture was my idea. I sent it to a friend for a quick photoshop. It was a non-event. When someone from MBA called asking us to remove the copyrighted logo, we did. If there was any thought behind it, it was “here’s a young kid doing something offensive during a sport event.” Some Ensworth parents were offended by the MBA kids’ behavior at the game. The little bird-flipper just seemed to fit.

BR: Did you expect so many (rather aggressive) responses? Was there much talk about the aftermath around the paper? What was your impression of the tone/content of those responses?

CH: I’m 26. I’ve sort of been raised on blogs. Anonymous, hate-filled comments are old hat, although this was the first time I’d ever been the target (hooray for new experiences!). That being said, the sheer number of comments on the first MBA blog was unexpected. Every 10 minutes or so, someone at the office would yell out “It’s up to 100!” or whatever. There was a running count all day. It was pretty entertaining just to sit back and watch.

BR: Were the subsequent blog posts planned or inspired by the overwhelming publicity of the first?

CH: [The other posts] were just a result of more people calling in and saying “oh, but did you hear about what those rotten MBA kids said THIS time?” A lot of those “leads” ended up being pure gossip (and a lot worse than the things we could actually verify).

The State Swim Meet: Where the Players Play

by Jimmy Balser
Staff Aquaphile

When referring to this year’s MBA swim team, enthusiastic fans casually drop complimentary adjectives including “epic”, “legendary”, and even, rarely, “seductive.” After winning every single dual meet of the season and then sweeping the Region meet by a disgustingly huge point margin, our swimmers were more than ready to head over to Knoxville for State. The athletes were also aware they would be swimming against the highest ranked (and downright scariest) high school team in the nation, Baylor. For the record, there were some other high schools there, but their names now escape me. Knowing it would be a tough meet, we grabbed our skimpy bathing suits and trucked over to UT’s new swimming facility with our heads held high.

On arriving at the meet, we were met with a setback, as beloved freshman Nathan Stinson became ill. Despite this loss we showed up at the pool ready to go on Friday morning. The first day we suffered a devastatingly close loss in the 200-medley relay to Baylor. Jack Murfee, Chase Lovelace,

and Maclin and Paschall Davis just barely were out-touched by what was a supposedly unrivaled Baylor relay. Still, the Baylor swimmers shook with fear every time they saw our guys from that point onward.

Next, Paschall Davis, who was seeded to get second place, won a come-from-behind victory in the 50 free. I kid you not, there were tsunamis spilling over the pool deck from Paschall’s speed.

The second day was also an emotional roller coaster. Paschall once again shocked the pool with an incredible win in the 100 freestyle. He essentially did everything but pillage the towns and steal the women of the meet’s losers. Lastly a strong team of Paschall, Chase, Jack, and Jarvis Werkhaven took another close second in the 200-free relay to Baylor. Although our guys did get second, it’s important to note that they also blew away the old state record.

This year our team had truly incredible depth, and it was on display in our large number of state finalist swimmers. Other than the warriors above, finalists in-



Congratulations to the swim team for their 2nd place finish!

cluded Pat Killian, Seth Akers-Cambell, and Adam Cornett. Please note the astounding number of scoring underclassmen listed, as they are going to be terrifying as seniors. Also notable is Harrison Stringfellow, who had the highest “speed increase to body hair shaving” ratio. And Patrick Sohr was, surprisingly, awarded a golden banana

hammock for being the meet’s most eligible bachelor.

So even though we walked away from Knoxville with a second-place trophy, we carried a Rocky-esque sense of victory in our hearts.



THE BELL RINGER

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@mc.montgomerybell.com (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

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A Letter to the Editor: Reflections on Criticism of MBA

2/06/09

Even thousands of miles away, one is still aware of criticisms of one's old school, especially when distinguished by fierceness and quantum from the usual ones (i.e. suggestions that the letters M. and B. might stand for something other than the name of a Pennsylvania iron tycoon). And one is aware, of course, that no right-minded person or community would take just any criticism at face value: much of it, on closer examination, reflects more poorly on the critic than on his or her addressee; like mosquitoes and standing water, the special relationship of high-school sporting events and parental ridiculousness

is that one is an excellent spawning-ground for the other.

But I would also suggest that no right-minded person or community would ever respond to criticism by reflexively asserting his or its own infallibility, whether in blog comments or simply as a matter of internal rationalization. Even the most outlandish accusations provide an opportunity to examine whether they might be injurious, hysterical exaggerations of an underlying truth.

Being called an elitist, a sexist, a racist, or a homophobe need not and ought not induce continuous, penitent self-flagellation, but it must not be dignified or bolstered by

disproportionate defensiveness. The opportunity to establish the extent to which we honor the dignity and worth of every person must not go untaken. For the MBA community, this is the urgent matter of whether our cafeteria and classroom banter reflects the values pronounced in Assembly at King Society inductions; and of whether, even at our loftiest, most principled moments, we do enough to promote the worth and equality of all of the spoken and unspoken multitudes that our community and civil society contain.

—Christopher P. Schuller ('04)
Lecturer in English Law in the
University of Osnabrück, Germany

The Obama Honeymoon Is Not All Honey

By Aaron Lutkowitz
Staff Editor

Every new American president earns the coveted "honeymoon" with America, or a popular wave of support for his first one hundred days in office.

Yet Obama, not even halfway through this period of euphoria with the populace, is starting to tumble, losing the widespread support that he gained just after the election and inauguration. Even though he won greater support in office during his first few days than almost any other president, especially in modern times, he is quickly losing all of this political capital. There were several mistakes that he made, but a few more that were far beyond his control.

First and foremost, he is losing much popular support because of how much hype was centered on his inauguration. Even though he himself warned that it could take years to solve America's woes, he built his campaign on change and progress. Many Americans interpreted that as immediate change.

One poll just after the election found that almost one-third of Americans thought that Obama could fix most of our problems in a week or less. These unrealistic expectations, and the people's consequent disappointment, exacerbated by his inspirational language and allusions to Dr. King's dream during his inauguration, have diminished his public support tremendously. He built his campaign on such an uplifting, ideological foundation that now he's facing concrete realities on the problems in America, and the uplift is starting

to become a headwind.

As part of his mandate for change following the election, he became extremely active during the transitional period between the election and his inauguration. He held more press conferences than President Bush and made public spectacles of all of his cabinet appointees. In reality, his one hundred days started right after the election — this may explain why even though it's only a month after the inauguration, Americans have perceived him as their president for about 100 days already.

Second, his \$850 billion stimulus package passed in Congress last week, a thousand-plus page piece of legislation, has thrown into question many of the values that he promised during his campaign. He built his campaign on a change to new politics and an end to the old system of corruption and pork-barrel legislation. Yet many of his proposals reflect unnecessary, excessive spending. For example, many of his infrastructure projects, which constitute \$350 billion of the stimulus, will go to small local projects like a polar bear exhibit in Rhode Island, a Minor League Baseball museum in North Carolina, and corporate jet hangers in Arkansas.

Worse, his promise to reach out to the other side of the aisle also went unfulfilled as the stimulus package proceeded through Congress. Known as the most liberal senator while in the Senate, President Obama made a poor attempt to create a bipartisan stimulus package. After the first vote, no Republican senator voted for the stimulus package, and the package passed the second vote only because

three relatively moderate Republicans supported the bill. Nonetheless, the nature of the stimulus package and the voting of the legislators, who were divided almost completely across party lines, call into question the sincerity of Mr. Obama's campaign promises and presage future legislative troubles.

Finally, the people surrounding Obama have caused immense damage to his message of corrupt-free government and change. Certainly in his home state of Illinois a crisis of confidence ensued when Governor Rod Blagojevich, later impeached for soliciting bribes, appointed Roland Burris to fill his own vacant Senate seat. More recently, Tim Geithner, President Obama's Treasury Secretary, was accused of not fully paying his taxes and insulted China for the depreciation of its currency, the yuan. Obama's hope for Commerce Secretary, Senator Judd Gregg, one of three Republicans on Obama's cabinet, withdrew from the position following the unveiling of the stimulus package. Rumors that the next census was to be taken from the Commerce Department and brought under White House control also caused Sen. Gregg to re-think his desire to serve in Obama's government. Though these are factors beyond the President's control, he will continue to lose popular mandate more and more if they continue.

As Obama begins to conclude his first month in office, he will need to make many real changes if he wants his honeymoon to get back on track and if he wants to find himself back in the loving arms of his supporters and the American people. Just fulfilling his campaign promises would be a great start to accomplish this.

Long Mountain Property Has Potential for a Plethora of Pleasurable And Pedagogical Pastimes

by Ryan Hill
Staff Writer

"What? Where? Why?"

These questions are probably among the first that enter the mind of an MBA student after hearing the occasional update about the school's recently acquired Long Mountain property.

The 200-acre tract of land was actually gifted to the school, and plans are underway to build an observatory, two playing fields, and a cabin on site. A lake has already been constructed.

This mountaintop is an ideal location for stargazing because of the significant lack of ambient light. There are myriad possibilities for a piece of land so rife with flora and fauna. This property will surely prove to be an ideal retreat center for students, faculty, and alumni.

Some MBA teachers, including Mr. Russell, Dr. Bailey, Mr. Ferrell, and Mr. Chenery, have already taken multiple trips to the land, which is still under serious development. About four years ago, while on a fishing trip in that area, Mr. Russell and Mr. Ferrell were inspired to start a summer camp that utilized the Long Mountain property. Now, the Long Mountaineers Club is fully active, and once a month 6 or 7 boys travel up to the property. While there, they blaze trails and scout out climbing routes on the characteristic bluffs in the area. They have even located a place on the shore of the lake where they hope to build a dock.

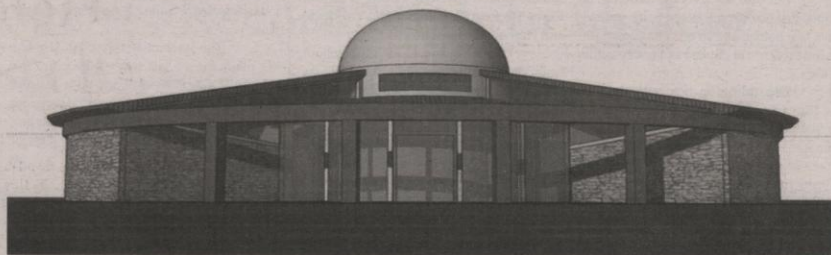
MBA's piece of land atop the mountain is one segment of an 1100 acre tract that was divided up by developers a while ago. Although the school's property is teeming with potential for all sorts of outdoor activities, the Long Mountaineers and other visitors to the site are currently using the adjacent Overton Retreat Center and its lake for recreational activities. There is still much work to be done in clearing land on which to construct the observatory, cabin, and playing fields.

I asked Mr. Russell about athletic opportunities presented by the school's unique asset. Besides use of the playing

fields, the property will provide opportunities for top-rope climbing, bouldering, hiking and backpacking, fishing, and camping. Imagine having a lacrosse, soccer, or football tournament on top of Long Mountain at 1800 feet! Mountain biking might also be a possibility, though with only two hundred acres of terrain, trail-building may be a bit tough for this demanding sport. Perhaps the Cross Country team will one day be able to take its retreat up the mountain, though the St. Mary's Retreat Center will be hard to beat. By the way, does Long Mountain have a Golden Gallon Station?

"Long Mountain appeals to the outdoorsmen among the alumni, faculty, and students," says Emmett Russell. "It offers outdoor opportunities for the MBA community in a beautiful environment."

This land is a wonderful and rare gift that should be appreciated by the school and those who are a part of it. Even now in the middle of development, there are plenty of activities available for enjoyment by any outdoorsman. And, once all construction is finished, our time on the mountain will hopefully become as much a tradition as our time on the Hill.



Architect's rendering of the observatory building

The Bell Ringer Visits With Coach Elliott

by
Jimmie Anderson
Staff Writer

Many students remember Mr. Elliott, either from having him as a teacher, a football coach, or even long ago as the man in charge of MBA Sports Camp in the summer.

Last year Mr. Elliott decided he needed a change in his life and made the remarkable choice to leave his beloved MBA and transfer over to Brentwood Academy.

The Bell Ringer contacted Mr. Elliott over at BA in an email interview to see how things were for him and to find out about differences and what he misses, etc.

Mr. Elliott told us that he is doing very well at BA and that perhaps the biggest difference, the greatest change he has encountered at his new school, is that he now also teaches girls. "The biggest adjustment to BA was having girls in the classroom. After 27 years of all boys, that was quite a change," he remarks.

Teaching 4 algebra classes at BA, Mr. Elliott claims that teaching on a block

schedule has also been a major adjustment for him, as he says "[I'm] teaching a class like Advanced Algebra every other day; Mon - Wed - Fri one week and then Tue - Thurs the next week. It has taken almost the entire year to date to get used to this."

Along with this aspect of academic life, he also reported that he will be Math Department Chair next year at BA.

As far as coaching goes, Mr. Elliott is currently The Eagle's defensive coordinator for football. "I simply enjoy coaching football," he says. "We had a good year this past year in football." As many MBA students know, BA made it to the State playoffs and had a State Championship run, but they lost to MUS in the final game.

Mr. Elliott said he misses many of relationships he had on The Hill, saying "There are a lot of very good people on the Hill." Mr. Elliott gives us best wishes that everything will go as well here, on The Hill, as it is for him at BA.

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Science Olympiad Team Synthesizes Into Action This Weekend

by
Seth Akers-Campbell
Staff Scientist

On February 28, the MBA Science Olympiad team will travel to MTSU for the regional competition. The Science Olympians will compete with teams around the region and also will try to qualify for the state competition, held in Knoxville.

Science Olympiad consists of a variety of events related to earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, engineering, and basic science techniques. Each event is handled by two-member teams who take tests, perform experiments, and display engineering brilliance while competing against MBA's rival schools such as Hume-Fogg and MLK.

For the 23 events, scoring is simple: first place receives one point, second place two points, and so on. The team with the lowest score at the end of the day is the victor.

Depending on the year, the top few teams in each region will advance to the state tournament at the University of Tennessee. The state tournament consists of the same events, but only one team from

Tennessee advances to the national competition, held this year in Augusta, Georgia.

Two years ago, MBA had its first ever nationals-qualifying team, which traveled to Wichita, Kansas for the event. The veterans from that historic group hope to travel to the national tournament again by taking the state this year, after a disappointing 3rd-place finish last spring.

At the tournament in Wichita, then-sophomore Rahul Sastry placed second in the Chemistry Lab event. Rahul, again competing in the "Chem Lab" event as a senior, will take the first step towards nationals in Murfreesboro, along with other seniors Robert McNeilly, Edward Powell, Curry Becker, Chunbum Park, Vic Goetz, and Harrison Stringfellow.

The Division C, or high school, team, under the leadership of Dr. Dickens, is hard at work already, building bridges, studying fossils, and learning laboratory techniques with the guidance of Dr. Carro, Dr. Marro, Mrs. Holmgren, Mr. Chenery, Cmdr. Carr, and Mr. Bullington.

The German Club And Interact-Rotary Reveal Plans

by
Bill Shofner
Staff Writer

The German Club has some big plans for the remaining part of the school year. According to German teacher Herr Sawyer, club advisor, there are going to be either two or three German movie nights before the year ends.

The club is also very excited about the German exchange students coming to MBA. In April, students from Wiesbaden, Germany will arrive, and the club has made plans to go on "cultural outings" with them. One of these outings is scheduled to be a Nashville Night. This will consist of linedancing at the Wildhorse Saloon downtown and going to Laser Tag. The German club looks forward to quite an exciting end to the year.

The Interact-Rotary Club also has big plans for the last part of the year. The club will continue its work with Second Harvest's Backpack program. This program provides grocery bags filled with snacks and food to Cockrill Bend Elementary School

students. On the first Tuesday of each month, volunteers pack around 400 bags to give to the students.

The club also hopes to build 1-2 more ramps for handicapped or disabled persons (the first was built in November by the club) by working with United Cerebral Palsy of Middle Tennessee.

In late March, the club also plans to hold a drive for Room in the Inn to collect used electronic devices such as PDAs and cell phones. The devices will then be returned to the manufacturer and the charity will receive a donation.

Lastly, the club will serve at the Nashville Red Cross Breakfast at Lipscomb University on April 7th. This club looks to be very active and involved for the rest of the year.

So make an effort to become a member of these clubs either this year or in years to come.

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Row, Red, Row!!! A New Club Floats Onto the Hill

by
Thomas Moore
Staff Oarsman

In Book V of Vergil's *Aeneid* an elaborate description of funeral games honoring Aeneas' father Anchises includes a detailed account of the thalassic sport of rowing. While MBA does not plan in the near future to honor some deceased progenitor with an interment festival, the school is currently pursuing the installation of a new sports program—a rowing club.

The history of rowing includes a long, celebrated tradition, stretching from ancient Rome, at a time when the Latin word *remigare* ("to row") would have held meaning for a larger number of people than it does today, to the banks of the English Thames. While the Monarch Boat Club of Eton College competed as early as the 1790s, the first races at Oxford were not organized until 1815, and at Cambridge in 1827. Shortly

thereafter, the town of Henley began to host an annual regatta, starting in 1839. As for our own shores, the Harvard-Yale Regatta is the oldest intercollegiate competition, having taken place almost yearly since 1852.

Now the sport has found its way to the green hills of MBA, under the leadership of the young, up-and-coming coach Brandy Sherwood. Having served as coxswain (the fellow who sits at the stern of the boat and barks orders and encouragement) at her high school before being recruited for the women's team at Kansas State University, Sherwood has been working closely with the sport for the past 12 years. In promoting the activity, she cannot stress enough the ability of rowing to instill in its participants the well-balanced life skills established only through teamwork and perseverance.

"While rowing is not only physically but also mentally challenging," said Coach Sherwood, currently an instructor of the sport at Vanderbilt, "you often find that you can do more than you initially thought." She has also said that the fact that there is no one star player, but that the team takes on the spirit of its members as a whole, adds to the atmosphere of camaraderie and unity.

After talking extensively with Mr. Gioia and Mr. Tillman over the past year, Coach Sherwood has said that the commitment and competitiveness she sees embodied by the MBA community makes it an ideal environment for the sport. As for the future, Mr. O'Neal plans to offer athletic credits for Rowing starting next fall season.

When the Rowing Club does get under way, Percy Priest Lake has been

cited as the most probable practice facility. MBA's club will, initially, compete in "sweeps," where each person operates one oar about 12 feet long. First, MBA needs to obtain a shell (the rowing term for boat).

Additionally, Mayor Karl Dean has been working to establish a boat house and launch site for the community, with a proposed location on the river near L.P. Field. Coach Sherwood, in association with the Nashville Rowing Club, intends to offer a "learn-to-row day" sometime in April for anyone interested in learning more about the sport.

Coach Sherwood, coming from a pioneering Kansas program established as early as 1963, sees rowing as a sport gaining popularity in the South and West. MBA will do its part to continue to grow the sport in the area over the next few years.

Service Reaches Record High In Student Participation As Juniors Start New Service Projects

by
Michael Seitz
Assistant News Editor

Under senior president Ian Preston, the MBA Service Club has exploded this year with a wide range of new service projects, many spearheaded by MBA juniors. So far this year, the junior class has contributed over 1,000 MBA service hours, and the entire school has logged over 2,500 hours.

Consistently one of the most heavily attended service opportunities over the past several years, Soup Kitchen continues to be very successful this year. On the first Saturday of every month, nearly 40 MBA student volunteers cook and serve lunch to over 150 homeless at the Holy Name Catholic Church downtown.

In addition, juniors Tee Griscorn and Jordan Stauffer have just started a Mobile Loaves and Fishes project. On the third Saturday of every month, they now lead a group of MBA volunteers in loading a truck with breakfast food and delivering it to homeless areas downtown. In their first run on Saturday, February 20th, Mr. Klausner, MBA college counselor, and a group of five juniors delivered food to the homeless downtown at the Cumberland River waterfront, at "Tent City," and at the Drake Motel.

MBA Special Olympics, led by seniors Perry Webb, Coleman Breland, and Grant Cothran, has met with a team of Special Olympians monthly for volleyball, soccer, bowling, and, most recently, a Polar Plunge. This year, Junior Ben Sutter has started an MBA Special Olympics swim team, leading a group of MBA volunteers to the JCC pool on Tuesdays. Ben Sutter also



MBA students enter the cold waters of Percy Priest.



Plungers shiver as they leave the water.

is in the process of starting an MBA Murrell School playground project to help repair a playground for disadvantaged youths in Nashville.

During the Titans' season, John Lowe led junior class volunteers in Titans parking at every home game, raising roughly \$10,000 dollars for the MBA Service Club, which it will use to fund its projects and to donate to other major programs. John Lowe also grilled great hamburgers for the volunteers.

Other juniors, Rob Higham and Nathan DeWitt, have also introduced a new service project with the African Leadership Organization. On Tuesdays they lead student volunteers to tutor Burundi refugees as they assimilate to life in the United States.

Junior Adrian Carey is involving MBA students in Bookem's Read Me Week. He will lead a group of students on February 24 and 26 to read to children at the Bordeaux YMCA and will conduct a book drive at MBA.

Junior Michael Seitz and Sophomore Cooper Thomas are leading the MBA Operation Smile Club to raise money for the organization that travels to developing countries to repair facial deformities, cleft lips and cleft palates, for children in need. Last September, they collaborated with the University School Operation Smile Club to hold a benefit concert that featured rocker Delbert McCClinton and raised nearly \$9,000, enough to fund 18 cleft lip and cleft palate repair operations in Third World countries.

Philosophy Club Discusses Empiricist David Hume

by
Thomas Moore
Staff Epistemologist

After Mr. Lester, history teacher and advisor of the Philosophy Club, confirmed that Wesley Wilson's kilt was, in fact, a tribute to the Scottish Enlightenment, and not homage to the Harpeth Hall school uniform, the Philosophy Club's discussion of David Hume resumed without further interruption (save for the frequent droppage of books used to demonstrate Hume's critique of causation).

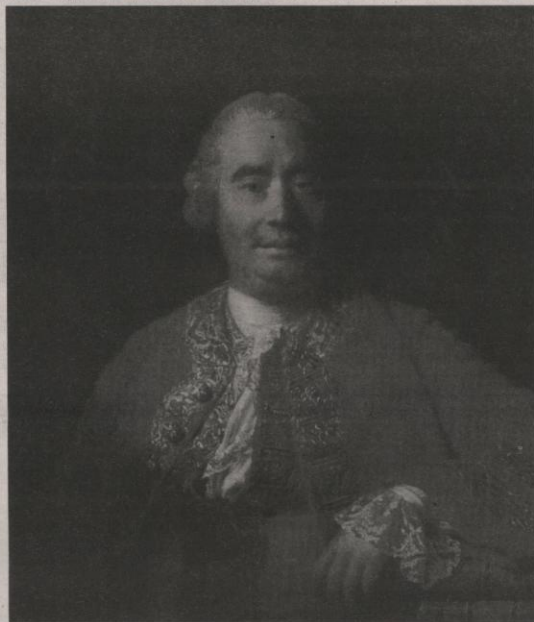
David Hume (1711-1776) was a Scottish philosopher, historian, and economist whose skeptical ideas concerning ontology, causation, and induction have influenced many subsequent philosophers and scientists. In his early work, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, he states that "the science of man is the only solid foundation for the other sciences," and that man's observation and experience is the only correct method for this science. Because of this staunchly empirical approach, Hume is often cited as the forerunner of the logical positivist movement, which holds that unless a statement can be verified or denied by experience, or unless it is true or false by definition (e.g. all bachelors are unmarried), then it is an absurd assertion.

Arguably the cornerstone of Hume's philosophy is his *problem of induction*, a concept closely related to his critique of causation. In this theory, Hume states that the idea of the ordered nature of the universe cannot be formed without the idea of cause and effect; however, Hume noticed a problem in man's ability to use inductive inference, i.e. the application of previously observed phenomena to the future behavior of objects.

Hume argues that, based purely on past experience, we cannot rationally assume the continued uniformity of the uni-

verse. To use a practical example, suppose a small child were given only soft cotton toys for the first years of his life. Now suppose his parents give him a rubber ball. When the child drops the ball over the side of his bed, he notices that it bounces. Based on his previous experience with soft cotton toys,

the child could never have inferred that the ball, when dropped, would bounce. If an adult were to observe this phenomenon, he would not be surprised at all, because, Hume says, he would see a "constant conjunction and necessary connection" between the ball's being dropped and its bouncing.



David Hume: philosopher, historian, and economist

Hume goes on to say that this idea is based upon nothing except past experiences; i.e. we see that event A causes event B, so we expect the same result in the future. Hume states that, in fact, all we are really seeing is one event following another and no third entity or causal link to connect the two actions. In this way, an orderly perception of the universe based on probability cannot be validated by logic. While it indeed seems probable that the ball, when dropped, will bounce, Hume says that probability, as such, is based entirely upon a past experience of connections. It seems that the only way to solve this problem is to be in a state of constant experimentation.

To many people, Hume's observations seemed to challenge scientific law itself. Just as the child, after having dropped the ball and having observed its subsequent bouncing on innumerable occasions, comes to expect that result in the future, there's nothing to say that a change won't occur to that, or indeed to any, regularity in the future.

In this light, every scientific law seems a general statement based on probability without a logical link to future events; i.e. no finite number of observations of a specific event can entail an unalterable, universal conclusion. It is easy, in this light, to see how Hume was able, in his more controversial work, published posthumously, to attack the foundations of natural religion, and to become the harsh philosopher of British empiricism he is known as today.

For those who are curious, every time Wesley released the book, it did, in fact, fall. Also, for the more historically minded, tartans were outlawed in the time of Hume's writing, so Wesley's kilt was horribly inaccurate.

Sophomores Struggle through Spring Rush

by Andrew Powell
Staff Writer

Now that churchball is regrettably over, the sophomores are looking for new ways to entertain themselves. There is a flurry of things going on at school during this hectic scramble before Spring Break (only two weeks away!). Here is a small sampling of sophomore news:

A couple weekends ago, the MBA swimming and diving team competed in the state meet, and sophomores posted some very impressive times, headlined by Chase Lovelace - 200 IM 3rd place, 100 Breast 2nd place (barely lost by a fraction of a second), and Jarvis Werkhaven - 200 IM 5th place, 100 Breast 4th place. Also making the trip were Cooper Thomas and Gage Baxter. Gage actually started off the meet by singing The National Anthem. Congratulations on these achievements!

Over that same, glorious 4-day weekend, Van East, Matthew Johnson, and Tom Markham spent 18 hours in Van's media room (11 pm - 5pm), taking

maybe 20 steps each that entire Saturday. They were, however, somewhat productive, leading an NCAA BBall '07 dynasty with Davidson to a 5-48 record in two years. Stout achievement, indeed. On that Friday off from school, a team of Chris "Topher" Sandwith, Wally Macey, and Warren Smith placed 2nd in the 3v3 Student Council basketball tournament, and received sweet prizes I'm sure.

For the most recent weekend, sophomores were equally busy. Michael Peters, everyone's favorite member of the "Middle Tennessee Ohio State Buckeye Club", traveled up to Lexington, KY to compete in a national track meet. He said he had a bad day and didn't perform as he had hoped to, but congratulations on making the trip! He would also like to add his sadness at the recent breaking of Steve "Pre" Prefontaine's, Michael's single greatest hero's, 5K record. Cooper Thomas and Will Lee played guitar in MBA's production of *The*

Metamorphosis, both playing phenomenal, original material. Jack "Yes, my name has two N's" Hallemann and Alex Austin both competed in Mock Trial, helping the squad to a 3rd-place finish (beating the courtroom likes of Ensworth, Father Ryan, and, most importantly, Harpeth Hall).

On a church trip to Victory Ranch, Walton "Woldn/D Mac" Macey dedicated his weekend to catching the abominable snowman, with the help of Matthew Johnson, Cody Fisher, John Wyse, and myself. But, despite all preparations, "Woldn" and friends came short in this endeavor because it rained and Woldn forgot to bring a towel. Bad combo.

In other news, Shelby Dewees would like to announce that he is now an uncle! Congrats, Shelby! I also think that I should mention that Shelby will be moving to Kentucky next year. You will be missed, Shelby! Good luck with everything.

Will Farrar, a regular contributor

to this column, claims that "there aren't a lot of exciting things happening at MBA right now," but felt I should mention the "hundreds of calculators that go missing every year." Well, hopefully the spring will be more "exciting." Will, but for all the right reasons, of course.

Aubrey Witherington is looking forward to playing on the varsity baseball team this spring, and hoping to get some playing time at pitcher. Best of luck, Aubrey!

Carter Callaway would like to give shout out to the "ULTIMATE FRIS-BEE" team (of which 16 sophomores are members), which, last I checked, was ranked 36th in the country - high schools and colleges combined (of which we are the #1 high school!).

Thus concludes another issue of sophomore news. In coming months, look for sophomores participating in varsity baseball, lacrosse, and track!

Seniors Are Bouncing Here And There: News of the Nearly Departed

by
Fadi Pulous
News Editor

This February edition of the senior class news is clearly going to be the best article in this paper for a few reasons:

- Senior Spring Sports Updates
- Senior Happenings (both **Sully Mehio** and non-**Sully Mehio** related)
- Potentially truthful updates
- Will Holt**
- Mike Phelps**

What better way to start the article off, then, with a tidbit from **Sully's** life. **Sully** informs me that he was accepted into the University of Miami in Florida. He is also planning a trip around the world during the summer with class hero, **Wyatt Redd**. Thankfully, after they've graduated, **MBA** won't be responsible for any occurrences they might encounter during the trip.

Ian Preston, service club president, has sacrificed his upcoming spring break to accompany **Coach Cheevers**. ...oh! and **Ian** will also be in Belize for the annual Sports Servants' trip.

Will O will spend his spring break at Seaside/Watercolor, and **Will O**, to no one's surprise, was accepted into the University of North Carolina this past week. **Will O** also expects a great year from the soccer team as the seniors compete for their last chance at a soccer state championship. Out of pure fear and respect for **Will O**, many opposing defenders have already quit their teams at JPIL, Father Ryan, and BGA.

The quartet of **Austin Archer**, **Curry Becker**, **Rhett Wallace**, and **Ryan Penney** will be heading to Destin over Spring Break, as **Rhett** tries for the third consecutive year to use his pick-up lines on the Destin Girls. Third time's a charm, **Rhett**!

In unrelated news, **Zach Brickner** was accepted into the University of Colorado and intends to spend his spring break on the London Trip with other seniors and **Mr. Morrison**.

Bradford Norton informed me that he and **Jimmy Balser** will also be on the London trip in an attempt to rid **Jimmy** of his "problem". Hopefully, his unfortunate nickname will become a thing of the past!

In serious news, **Alex Martin** wants as many seniors as possible to come out for the **One-Acts** in March and April. **Ben Gregory**, **Alex Martin**, **Nicholas Caprioli**, and **Will Holt** will each be directing a one-act, and spots are open.

Richard Brunsting is pitching for some attention for the tennis team, as he insists the team is prepared for a strong run at State this year. Come out and support Big Red Tennis!

Austin Archer would like to thank everyone for the turnout at Improv Night which raised \$300 for TN Rep. Speaking on behalf of the International Thespian Society, **Austin** would like to formally challenge the debate team in the classic game of football known as the **Weenier Bowl**. Speaking on behalf of the debate team, I would like to say the theatre program is about to lose a few good men.

Taylor Land, **Karl Mecklenborg**, and **William Hayes** will be heading to Florida for spring break. **Chris Johnson** will be the understood method of transportation.

Michael P. Nunan says he is formally declining to play soccer this year and is instead joining a cage-fighting league in Southern America.

According to **Will Holt**, he and **Mrs. Palmore** will be teaming up to study race relations in senior-citizen women here in the South. *The Bell Ringer* wishes **Mrs. Palmore** the best and **Will Holt** the worst!

Finally, after conducting a poll in the senior class regarding the recent **Mike Phelps** fiasco, the senior class concluded that they have lost no respect for the man that was caught flying high on camera. Rather, **Wyatt Redd** points out that **Michael Phelps'** real issue is finding new friends that won't take pictures of him and sell him out, because we all know these are the really bad influences on the Olympic swimmer. This is for **Michael**: the **MBA Class of '09** supports you and forgives you for your recent non-criminal yet publicized actions! Good luck in 2012, we hope you break your time of 42.0 seconds in the 200 meter!



Seniors enjoy the music of In Case of Fire during the 100 days to Graduation breakfast.

Winter Does Not Leave the Juniors Idle

by
Will Henry
Staff Writer

The junior class has continued to excel in all its ventures this second semester. Athletically, academically, in the arts, and in service, the juniors always seem to be at the top.

As the winter sports season comes to a close, eyes turn to the spring season. But the accomplishments of the winter shall not be forgotten. Young padawan **Holden Mobley**'s dominance on the b. court merited All Region from the Tennessean High Council.

Once upon a time, **Chris Atkins** competed at National ABS climbing competition in Boulder, Colorado; he failed to win but made birds sing. **Kyle Brantley** alleges that **MBA's** Ultimate Frisbee team is #1 in the nation. Such assertions are yet to be confirmed. **Sam Bryant** saw **Sasquatch** while doing...uhm...homework.

Daniel Smith and **Matt Moynihan** did some cool stuff in the *Metamorphosis*, with technical help from **Zach Sternberg**. **Wilson Griffith** kept the lighting just right for the actors.

Dtodd took 1st runner-up at state wrestling, improving upon a 3rd-place finish last year. Arithmetic sequence, (nude nudge) need I say no more? **Matt Bellet** and **Charles Herron** took 6th place and 6th place, respectively.

Wilson Griffith got some Tang™, the drink of astronauts, at the region swim

meet... seeing as he was thirsty. And **MBA's** only fan there.

Instead of churning up mud, **Tee now** is churning out food with **Mobile Loaves and Fishes** with his brand new truck.

"I went to Furman, Elon, and Wofford over the presidents day weekend," interjected **William Tanner**.

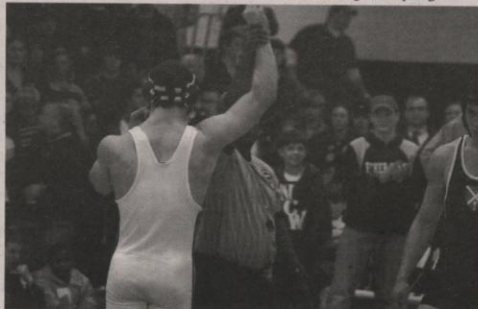
Naveen "Big Money Chadalasvegas" Chadalavada single-handedly won the **JETS** (Junior Engineers Technical Society) competition. **George Curtis**, **Lewis Armistead**, **Eric Mace**, and **Alex Karpis** rocked mock trial. **Turner "T-Rhino" Henderson** participated.

Mac Frith and **Jeff Nutkis** are providing junior leadership for the upcoming track season.

Will Campbell and **Wiley Hunt** visited the Lone Star State, touring Trinity, SMU, and Rice.

In other news, **Patrick Lovett's** dog had puppies. **John Lowe** went to Waffle House and is still "livin' da dream." **Jackson Roberts** took the ACT...then found \$20. And not to be forgotten, **Mitchell Lukens** gave a dinosaur report to St. Henry's School.

The juniors hope to continue their excellence through the spring.



Daniel Todd wins yet another match.

Freshmen Stay Active As Winter Ends

by
Joe Scherrer
Staff Writer

Despite the dreary weather lately, freshman life has been quite active over the past few weeks.

Will Stewart won the *Archives* prose category for his story "The Elephant-Mouse Corollary in Relation to Cheese." He says he couldn't have done it without Daniel Mace, who gave him the idea in the first place. Will won \$100 for his story.

Early on Saturday mornings, Rob Edwards, Vaughn Hunt, and Blake Burns sacrifice some of their idle time to work with kids and give them music lessons with Backfield in Motion.

Due to the generous donations from an alumnus's grandfather, we now have two ping-pong tables set up in the big gym. Come by and play during lunch. As he searches for a worthy foe, Chris Lee offers an open challenge to all to dare play him.

Noah Fardon, John Elam, and Aaron Ardisson started their band The Marshmallow Jex. They played at Rock-town on January 10 and have a CD with ten songs.

The freshman speech competition is coming up in the next few weeks. John Mark Bellet says he is just in for the cash prizes, and Will Stewart views the contest as a chance for the Extremers to get a little easy money.

Congratulations to all freshmen who made varsity sports teams! Here they are:

Lacrosse: Zach Chen, Augie Houghton, Gray Curtis, Mattison Hamilton, and John Morphis.; Baseball: Alex Kohls and James Kay; Soccer: Chris Meluch; Tennis: Greydon Gawaluck.

Freshman Speech Finals Approach

by
Alex Hagar
Staff Writer

The freshman speech competition headed by Dr. Seay is in full swing, as the small groups meet to compete on February 24, aiming for the March 9 finals.

The small groups have already met to discuss topics and have also turned in their official outlines for the speeches. There are three topics, from which a freshman will choose one: The Future, The Economy, and Going Green.

So, while some of these topics may not interest you, former winners Andrew Powell and Denzel Caldwell advised competitors to choose a topic that really interests them so that they may be able to get involved in the research process and speak with their true opinions in mind. Also, a major problem for the competitors is going to be to avoid too much information and meeting

the time limits.

Two competitors that several freshmen think can accomplish this task and whom they rank as primary men-to-beat are Karthik Sastry and Daniel Mace.

Dr. Seay has said that the main function of the competition is to give confidence for public speaking, and, while currently the competition is only for freshman, Dr. Seay hopes that one day there will be a speech competition for other levels in the school.

Dr. Seay's philosophy is that every student, at some time in his life, will have to perform a public speech and that the confidence for public speaking is always useful.

To conclude, good luck to all the contestants, and I hope that the competition has given confidence to all previous contestants.

Kafka Cast Amazes; Kafka Concept Appalls

A Review of *Metamorphosis*

by
Thaleia Melpomene
Staff Muse and Critic

You know, maybe I just don't get it, but even when I was young and all things were wonderful, and seldom disagreeable were even the bizarre, I found Franz Kafka unbearable. Fortunately, director Malcolm Morrison and a brilliant performance by his actors kept me in the theater, or Steven Berkoff's adaptation of Kafka's novella would have proceeded without this theater-lover. Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis* has to rank among the darkest and most unpleasant of all plays. It took a lot of determination not to get up and leave the theater when Mr. Samsa, the father, started throwing apples at the non-threatening Gregor, his son-turned-insect.

Will Holt portrays Gregor with incredible skill and acrobatic vigor. Gregor, the son who must support his passive and disagreeable mother, father, and sister, awakes to discover his body has become that of an insect. Of course, in this condition he cannot continue his job by which the entire family is supported. Whatever love for this son which may have existed quickly, as anyone would guess, deteriorates, and Gregor becomes at once a burden, an embarrassment, and, let's admit it, really very disgusting. Who would want this creature scurrying about the house?!

So where is the drama when Kafka presents such an obvious scenario and inevitable progression from using to abusing? The drama is in Will Holt climbing the walls (scaffolding) as an insect would, all the time musing aloud his human thoughts; the drama is in Will Holt dropping weakly to the floor when hunger or sadness saps his strength; the drama is in Will Holt feeling the very real pain when his father pelts him or kicks him. In short, with a less capable actor this show would not have made the cut. Will was fantastic.

Director Morrison's work on this play reinforces his reputation for evoking the very best from his cast. The acting was well-timed and tight, bringing to the audience both the understated lines and the crashing, fearful anger with appropriate tone and manner. The audience, mostly student-age, was riveted.

Besides Will, Alex Martin as the father, Haley Oldham as the mother, and Ellen Thomas as the sister portrayed their roles with maturity and convincing power. They all had to express a wide range of feelings, and it must be said that the audience found them believable. One would have liked to have seen a little contrition from the characters, but Kafka wants this disaffection to be an absolute statement.

There was, therefore, not much ambivalence at the end in the family's attitude toward the "son." Once the son, who to them when human was no more than a "creature" whom the family used and exhausted, could no longer provide for them, then they certainly did not care to provide for him. This selfishness was wonderfully evident in the portrayals offered by Alex, Haley, and Ellen, and the angst which Gregor feels because of his family's attitude is brilliantly brought forth by Will Holt.

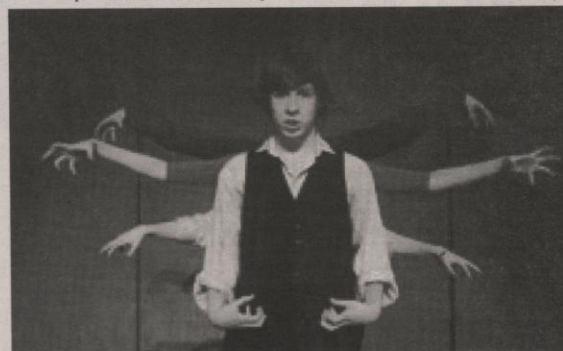
Completing the cast were Matt Moynihan as the officious clerk concerned only about Gregor's absence from his job, and Daniel Smith, Chris Goodrich, and Sara Hornberger, who portrayed the pig-like boarders, apparently reflections of the greedy selfishness of the family itself.

Zach Sternberg's technical direction and Wilson Griffith's lighting added just the right atmosphere to the scene and the set, which was perfectly sparingly put together by Nathan Tinnell. Musicians Cooper Thomas and Will Lee came in right

on cue with volume exact and tone suited to enhance the mood.

All in all, a completely appalling play was directed and acted to perfection. The entire performance reinforced the repu-

tation of MBA's excellent theater department for producing difficult material with professionalism and an obviously intense love of the craft.



Will Holt channels his inner Gregor Samsa.



Another interpretation of Gregor's metamorphosis

Winter Movies Reviewed

by
Jimmy Balser and Will Holt
Entertainment Editors

Synecdoche, New York (2/5): If you've seen any other Charlie Kaufman films (*Being John Malkovich*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*) you should know by now to expect something very different. But...this movie marks Kaufman's first time in the director's chair, and so he has gone completely wild, with fanciful imaginativeness, mind-bending logic, and a total rethinking of the "third wall." Philip Seymour Hoffman is great, and so is this movie...at least we're pretty sure it is.

Benjamin Button (4/5): This film has received a torrential amount of both praise and criticism: praise for David Fincher's beautiful directing, criticism for Roth's blatant writing similarities to his earlier *Forrest Gump*, and for both for the complex lead role filled by Brad Pitt. Still, it is hard to argue that *Button* isn't an intensely moving and interesting sort of movie. Further, despite the occasionally slow pacing, it is almost always fascinating to watch.

My Bloody Valentine 3D (3/5): It is a vulgar, gory, depraved display of all that is wonderful in the horror genre. And, surprisingly, the plot is at least passable. 3D movies have a tendency to raise expectations too high, but a disgusting horror movie seems to be where 3D works best. The advertisements suggesting that you bring a date are absolutely validated.

Coraline (4.5 of 5): Your eyeballs will

thank you. One of most impressive films I've ever seen. Use of stop-motion animation and digital 3D combine to form a world of overwhelming imagination. The story of a little girl's struggle to find a place in her small world is interrupted by the discovery of an alternate world where life is wonderful, parents are loving, and, oddly enough, everyone has buttons for eyes. This "family" movie goes far beyond *The Lion King* and *The Little Mermaid* to introduce a frighteningly truthful world of temptation and death—Genesis, anyone? By the way, directed by Henry Selick, director of *Nightmare Before Christmas*. Stars: Dakota Fanning (redeems her), Teri Hatcher (redeems her as well). N.B. If you see it in 3D in Opry Mills, I warn you not to go on a Saturday night...I warned you.

Waltz with Bashir (5 of 5): "Um, I think I need to go home and think now." This was my movie partner's reaction after seeing this film. Who would guess that an animated movie could create such an intense emotional response? This anti-war film comes straight out of the war-torn country of Israel. Using real interviews and commentary, filmmakers weave a plot around the carnage of the 1982 Lebanon War that encompasses dramatic use of animated lighting and motion. If you're looking for the best war film of 2008, here it is. If you like the satire of Kurt Vonnegut in *Slaughterhouse 5*, then you'll be impressed by this generation's response.

Gran Torino (4 of 5): Best decision made out of boredom I've made in 2009! Didn't expect much from Eastwood's new modern western, but, gosh, was I wrong! The cold but hysterical candor of Eastwood's character is worth the price of admission. As a lonely Korean War veteran, Walt (Eastwood) struggles with the racist transformation of his homey, American neighborhood. Walt's own transformation stems from a new relationship with his Asian neighbors, for whom he ultimately

sacrifices everything. Wonderful film...if you like racial conflict!

Quick film sum-ups and suggestions:

Slumdog Millionaire: Yeah, it's good. See it. Good as everyone thinks? Decide for yourself. I have my grievances.

Milk: Get over yourselves. Maybe my favorite movie of the year.

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A still shot from the animated masterpiece, *Waltz with Bashir*



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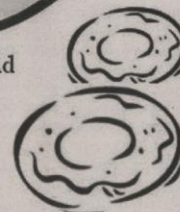
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OMG!!! It's IN CASE OF FIRE!!!

by

Will Holt

Entertainment Editor

Well, some boys finally did it in the class of 2009. At last, four MBA demi-gods have merged together in a homogenous musical mixture of a blonde heartthrob on vocals, a Metallica lover on bass, statistics lover on lead guitar, and cross-country legend behind the drums. Beatles? Eh? This is the MBA invasion, and this is In Case of Fire.

Appearing in local venues such as Houston's parents' garage and Alex Martin's creepy, unused pool house, In Case of

Fire has already got everyone on the Hill talking. With impressive covers of Modest Mouse, Rage Against the Machine, Nirvana, The Black Keys, and others, the class of 2009 finally has a reason to come together as one. And what a spectacle it is! In Case of Fire is Brandon "PJ" Dockery, Barrett "Let me change t-shirts 5 times" Jacques, Taylor "I swear Metallica's good" Land, and Baker "Ringo" Mulherin.

Their performance is lively, in

part because of the quasi-hallucinogenic and questionable lighting of dream expert Harding McCall. Technician Matt Wieck also provides equipment and an impressive sound system for each show.

Each song begins with a witty and mocking comment from Jacques to the audience—usually aimed at Houston Oldham. But, oh, can the boy sing! As I photographed the blonde prince, I noticed that he was singing the song directly to

me with a peevish smile. Truly a band with personality and a knack for theatrics. Dockery's barefoot guitar shredding gave the ladies something to see as well.

Give these guys a listen. They are open and looking for gigs, autographs, and donations. Maybe if they get enough money, they'll be able to attract an impressive following of groupies. And do not worry, Andy Lustig will not be on the harmonica anytime soon.



In Case of Fire puts on quite a show at Alex Martin's pool house.



The shoe-less band plays another gig for the 100 days to Graduation breakfast.

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Bombay Palace Bombards the Palate

by
Nick Williams
Staff Taster

Nashville's newest Indian restaurant, Bombay Palace, offers a classy and hospitable atmosphere, along with a large, moderately-priced menu.

The atmosphere is in surprising contrast to its location, tucked into the strip next to Bricktops, off West End, but it truly lives up to its exotic and ritzy name.

Upon walking in on a sunny Friday afternoon, my eyes took a short time to adjust to the combination of deep red hues, dim glowing light, and spotlessly white table cloths, but the preparation of the food was to be the final and perfect supplement to this royal atmosphere.

As we were seated, one fellow diner, Fadi Pulous, with a wide-eyed grin, declared himself to be the "king of the castle." Our waiter promptly corrected him, and our dining adventure was set to begin. The somewhat lengthy wait for the food was punctuated by frequent visits from our friendly waiter, and our drinks seemed to be constantly full.

As the suspense for our food reached its apex, a chariot loaded with delicately prepared dishes arrived at our table. Each different meat dish occupied a shiny copper kettle and was placed atop a small flame to ensure that we ate our food hot. The meal derived its satisfaction through a synergistic combination of taste and texture.

The menu includes dishes of chicken (the most popular), lamb, pork, seafood, and several vegetarian options. The blend of spices used in the thick, rich sauces makes up the taste aspect, while the tenderness of the meat combined with the consistency of the sauces gives the meal its textural aspect, and it is hard to say which is more prominent. However, although the meat makes up the bulk of the dish, the buttery naan (flatbread), white rice, potatoes and vegetables (also usually covered in a savory and spicy sauce) are necessary accoutrements.

The overall dining experience went beyond mere fulfillment as we received the treatment and cuisine of the Palace for only a moderately-expensive price.



Chicken curry



Buttery naan

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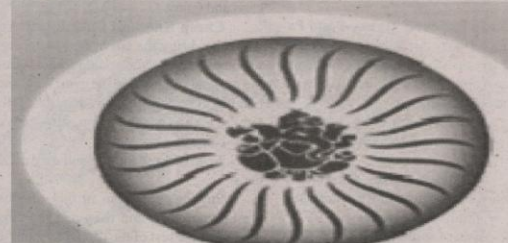
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Bombay Palace's logo



Fadi is almost as happy to be with his bro, Karl Mecklenborg, as he was to eat Bombay Palace's food.

In Soviet Russia the Restaurant Reviews YOU

by
Sully Mehio & Wyatt Redd
Staff Food Critics

Do you ever miss the old Gulag? Do you worry that the wheels of the restaurant industry are greased with the blood of the working class? Do you have a mustache or excessive back hair? Did you tear the Smoothie King coupon out of this paper without reading any articles, like an animal (that's like stealing you know)?

Well, if you answered "yes" to any of those questions, Wyatt and Sully have a restaurant for you. Taste of Russia in Cool Springs is a great place to get Russian food, mostly because it's the only place around. The restaurant is run by only a few Russians, and everything on the menu is completely traditional, even the drinks.

The restaurant was small, but there were lots of people there, and most of them

were Russian, too. Before we ate there, we heard stories of how Russian food is so bad that even Russians don't like it, but there's not much truth to that. The food wasn't bad — it was definitely something else, though.

When we walked into the restaurant, Wyatt immediately remarked on the atmosphere: "It looks like my grandparent's living room," he said. We sat down at a table, and a waitress soon came for our drink orders. Sully requested Kvass, a non-alcoholic beer made from wheat. Interestingly enough, they don't serve soft drinks. Wyatt found that out when he asked for a coke, to which the waitress responded with a quizzical stare. After a minute or two they worked out what he was asking for and the waitress glanced over at a two liter bottle

of Coca-Cola used for mixing drinks and inquired if he would like it. Wyatt instead opted for some tea which they brought out in a teapot and set on the table. Wyatt mentioned that it tasted like "a Christmas tree... in a good way."

For appetizers, we ordered pickled herring, which was strips of raw herring on a plate, but tasted like salmon, only more pickley. It was served cold, flavored with garlic, and served with parsley.

For the main dishes, Sully got oven-roasted salmon steak with hollandaise sauce and garlic steak fries, and Wyatt ordered a savory smoked meat soup. Wyatt's soup was good, but one thing we noticed was whenever any dish had meat in it, the menu just listed it as meat without telling you what it

was. Our guess is that they have a large tub labeled "meat" from which they ladle some sort of generic meat product, since this is customary in Russian kitchens.

Anyway, they do have some other stuff — a lot of it is wrapped in blintzes (crepes), and there are even some Ukrainian dishes such as Zrazi (Ukrainian style meat).

Although Taste of Russia may not be that great in terms of "taste" or "things that don't look like gray gelatinous blobs," the experience was definitely interesting and worth a try. Besides, as Stalin was fond of saying, "Flavor is the enemy of the people!" (citation needed).

All told we gave Taste of Russia, three Sullys out of five.

Let's Create Some Dishes Out of Sage Food

by
Sully Mehio
Staff Food Critic

If you are creative, you can easily compose your own individual dishes from the offerings presented to us each day in the cafeteria by our culinary friends at Sage. While their food does not lack flavor or savory assortment, you may want to try some different combinations to vary the Frist Hall experience. Here are some of my favorites:

Cheap Knockoff Turkey-Pesto Pannini: You can make this Italian classic every day they have pesto spread at the sandwich bar. In my opinion, it's the best sandwich ever made at MBA so far.

- 2 loaves of sourdough bread
- Spread pesto thinly on both loaves
- Add slices of turkey, some provolone cheese, onion rings, mushrooms, and thinly-sliced tomatoes.
- Heat it in the microwave for a minute or two, and it should taste golden.

Cheap Knockoff M&M Flurries:

You may have to venture out to Mrs. Lechleiter's or Mrs. Nutkis's office to get the M&Ms, but it's totally worth it.

1 or 2 of those Purity ice cream cups
Some M&Ms from Mrs. Lechleiter's or Mrs. Nutkis's office

Mix (if it's too thick, add a little bit of milk to make it softer) in one of those plastic cups and enjoy.

Cheap Knockoff Coke Floats: You can either bring the coke from Walgreen's or somewhere, or you could just get it from the vending machines in the gym. We started making these in the senior quad last fall — they're at their best on warm, sunny days.

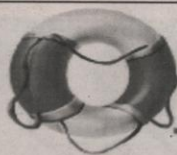
can of Coca-Cola
1 cup of those Purity vanilla ice cream cups

Put the ice cream in one of those plastic cups first, and then add the coke. That way, the rest of the drink has more ice cream in it. So refreshing!



Sully dictates the food that his classmates are allowed to eat, while speaking at the 100 days to Graduation breakfast.

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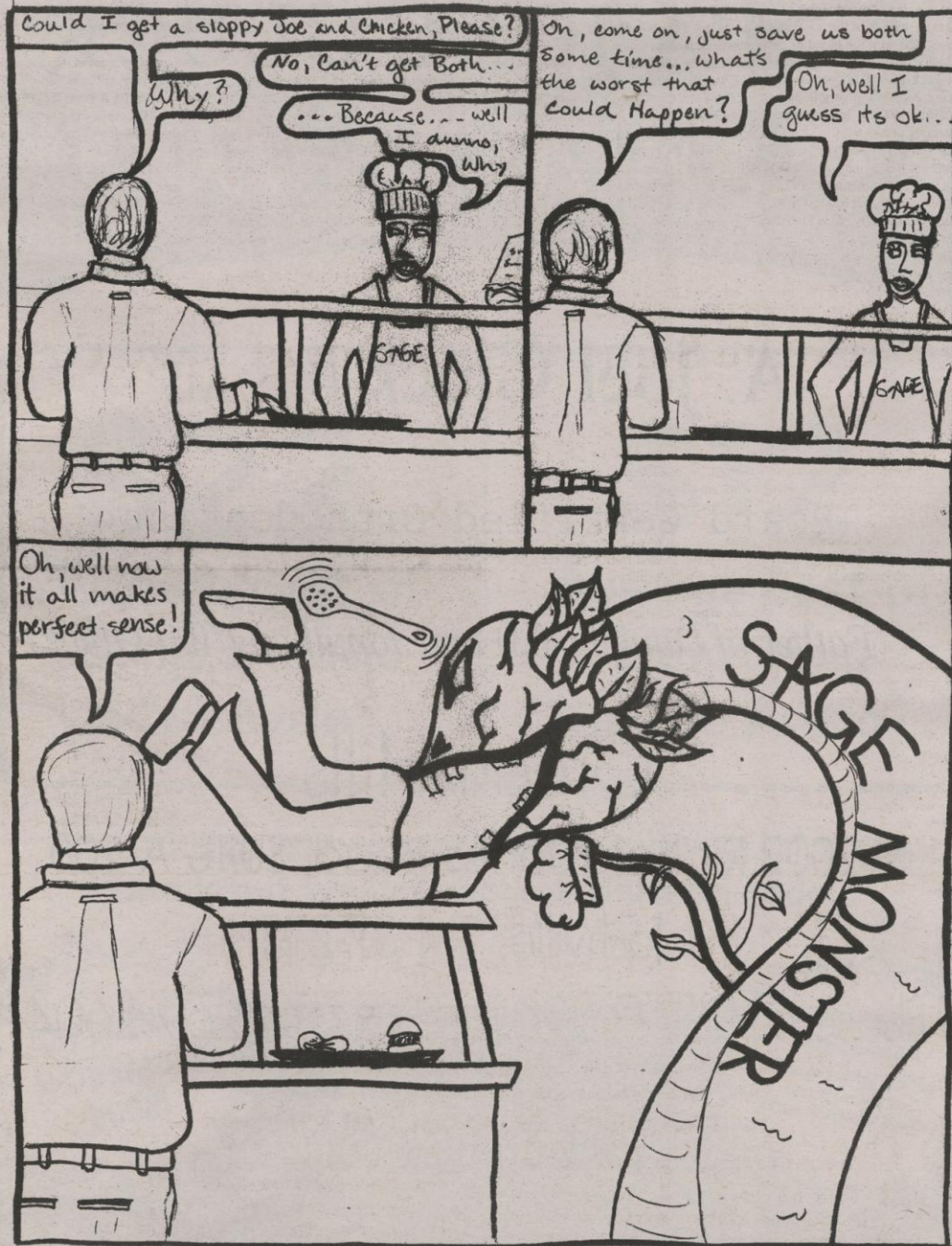
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High School Concussions Get Attention

by
Michael Seitz

Assistant News Editor

I was in the third grade when it happened. During an evening, indoor team soccer practice in a grade school gym with tiled concrete floor, I slipped and struck my head against the floor. I did not lose consciousness but during the next hour I struggled to remember the simplest facts, including the details of my accident. I had sustained a concussion. It was scary. Later that evening I felt much better, but that was the end of my indoor soccer season.

Concussions have received increased attention at all levels of competitive sports, especially in high school football. It is estimated over 50,000 high school athletes sustain a concussion each year. A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury most commonly occurring in football and ice hockey. Concussions involve a temporary change in mental status. It may involve symptoms affecting memory, balance, reasoning, and sometimes a loss of consciousness.

The MBA football staff is fortunate to have a full time certified athletic trainer, Mark McIntosh, who, with team physician Dr. Dave Alexander, makes sure that every MBA football player receives prompt, up-to-date treatment of sports-related head injuries. Head MBA varsity football Coach Daniel McGugin relates, "When I played football I can remember one guy getting a concussion. Now, the word comes up on a weekly basis. The medical staff, trainers,

and coaches are better trained now to ID a concussion. A concussion has nothing to do with toughness. It is an injury."

In the past, there probably were far more concussions than were reported. Their seriousness was not fully appreciated, and head injuries were not referred to as concussions but with the euphemisms "bell ringers" or "seeing stars."

"Concussion awareness and education is higher than it's ever been," says trainer Mark McIntosh. "I try to always explain the protocols we have in place and use every instance of a concussion as an educational opportunity for the athlete, his parents, and the coaches."

MBA has a strict protocol for evaluating and treating suspected concussions, whether occurring on the practice field or during games. Players are evaluated as soon as they are identified with a possible head injury. Those who are determined to have sustained a concussion are removed immediately from competition for further testing.

This past year MBA began implementation of ImPACT, a computerized test of cognitive skills (such as short- and long-term memory, reaction time, etc.) to assess the severity and follow the recovery of players after a concussion. The test is administered by the MBA athletic trainer and interpreted by Dr. Jason Hubbard, a

local neurosurgeon specifically trained to interpret ImPACT scores.

According to McIntosh, players must be completely symptom free for 24 hours before returning to any physical activity. After this they may begin a series of graded activities such as light exercise, followed by greater physical exertion before they can return to any practice activities. Contact activities are permitted only after full recovery.

McIntosh estimates that the MBA football team may have had 8 to 12 concussions this past season, which is in line with the national high school statistics. The average recovery time was between 5 and 10 days.

The player's return is delayed to prevent the feared "Second Impact Syndrome," which occurs almost exclusively in high school and younger athletes who have sustained a recent prior concussion. McIntosh explains, "In the event that a player sustains a successive concussion before fully recovering from the first, the effects are not simply additive, but often exponential. Players can be left with serious long-term symptoms, and even permanent brain damage. This is why proper 'return to play' guidelines are so important when dealing with concussions, particularly in high-impact sports."

Efforts to reduce the incidence of concussions in football have focused on

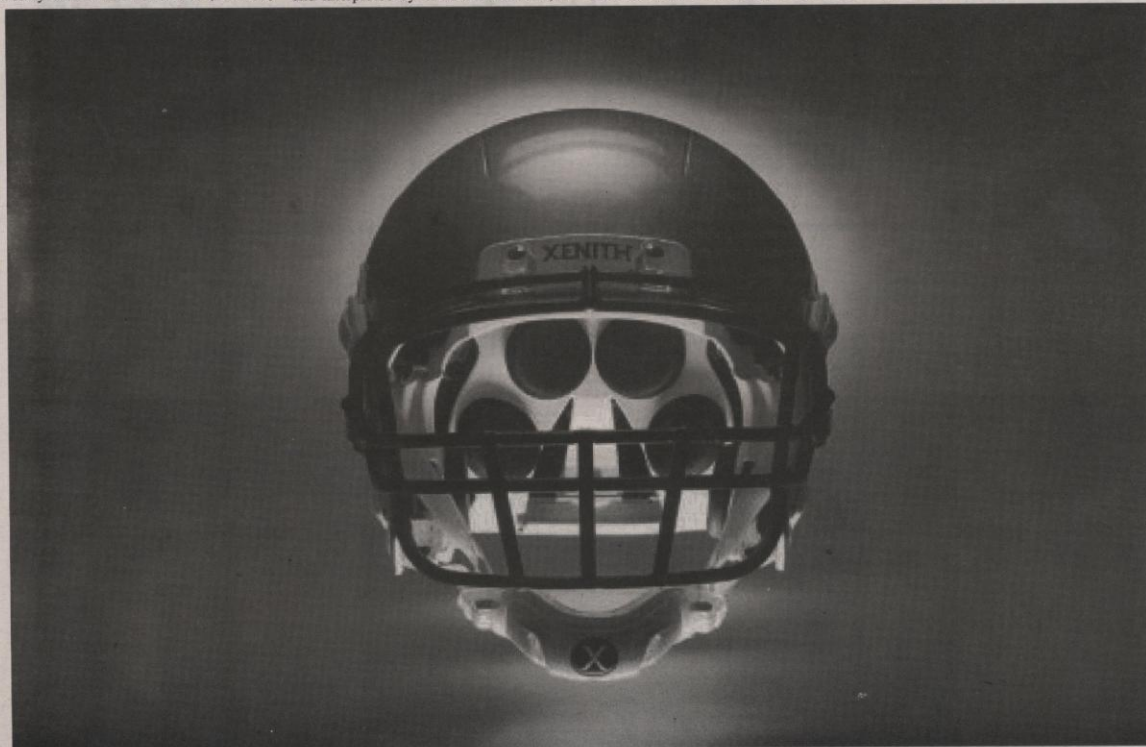
the helmet. MBA teaches proper football tackling techniques that emphasize avoiding helmet-to-helmet contact.

McGugin notes, "The equipment is much better today than it was 15 years ago." MBA uses the latest Riddell Revolution helmets, which have been developed to increase the proportion of "glancing blows" and reduce impact forces on contact. "We recondition our helmets every year. Every player in our program plays with a brand new helmet or a 'like-new' helmet." Additionally, players are required to use mouthguards, which have been shown to reduce the incidence of some types of concussions.

I fully recovered from the effects of my concussion and have played soccer, football, and basketball since without a recurrence, despite some head contacts.

Unfortunately, the incidence of concussions in high school football has been only slightly reduced by the recent improvement in helmet design. More significant has been the realization that improved safety requires full recovery from a concussion before return to play.

Hopefully in the future a major breakthrough, like the development of air bags for automobiles or new technology developed by the military to protect soldiers from bomb blasts, will make concussions rare events in high school football.



A Xenith helmet designed to reduce concussions for the wearer

Heads Up: Tennis Team Is Legit

by
Kyle Brantley
Staff Writer

One aspect of this year's tennis team is certain: they are going to be more mentally and physically prepared than any other team they face. The team lifts weights every Tuesday and Thursday morning, runs a substantial amount every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and practices tennis skills every day.

Every player from last year's team except the former captain Jim Shaub is returning to the court this year. Further, the tennis team has Coach Hood, one of the most dedicated and committed coaches on campus, leading the way. Senior Richard Brunsting said, "Coach Hood did an amazing job in his first year. He always seemed to make practice fun and focused at the same time, and he was able to pump everyone up before big matches. He did great and is off to a great start this year."

Not only is the tennis team loaded and ready to fire away this year, but they also are set for the future. With two freshmen phenoms (Palmer Campbell and Greydon Gawaluck), two solid sophomores (Russ Anderson and Davis Thraillkill), four unbelievable juniors (Naveen Chadalavada, Jake Hymes, Chris Vaughan, and Roger Briggs), and two sensational seniors (Richard Brunsting and Leland Bandlow), the Red are ready to Roll. Furthermore, Coach Hood is confident in the microbes: "As for our junior school, they are probably the best junior school team in the history of MBA tennis." The junior school team is led by the talented and erudite tennis guru Dr. Kinch.

The Big Red will be looking to Naveen Chadalavada (87th in the South) and Richard Brunsting (130th in the South), the likely top two players, for good play this season. Roger Briggs (52nd in the South), who attended MBA in junior school, returned to Montgomery Bell this winter after he transferred from McCallie. Roger will be

ineligible this year because of TSSAA rules, but Coach Hood is "ecstatic" to have him back. Roger was a force on the high school team as an eighth grader, so one can only imagine what he will do as a senior next year for the MBA.

MBA will have its hands full though, as many teams have talented players in the Volunteer state this year. Naveen thinks that McCallie will be as good as always, and Ensworth could be dangerous as well. Richard B-Sting believes that two big sleepers this year will be Baylor and Ensworth: "Ensworth has three good players that we happened to get the better of, 2-1, last year, but if Ensworth has some new talent for the remaining spots, then they could be good. Baylor always seems to be good, so if they recruited some foreign people they could be a threat this year."

Coach Hood, however, says that most people would say that MUS is the favorite to take state as of right now. To make things even more challenging, Coach Hood has scheduled matches against state champions from Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee to help MBA face as much competition early on as possible. Big tournaments include a trip to Memphis on February 21st, the Chattanooga Rotary on April 3rd, the St. Xavier Jamboree on April 17th in Louisville, and, of course, MBA's own Carter Invitational on April 24th and 25th.

MBA tennis players have their goals set high this year, looking to improve on a third-place finish in the region and a loss in the semifinals of state last year. With extraordinary coaching, steady leadership of the three captains (Naveen Chadalavada, Richard Brunsting, and Leland Bandlow), and a drive to succeed, don't be surprised if the Big Red takes home the state championship this year.



An MBA tennis player prepares to serve.

2009 MBA Baseball Presents Many Questions

by
Alex Apple
Sports Editor

The one thing that is known for sure about this year's baseball team is that little is known. MBA has a very young team with several juniors and one or two sophomores who will have to step up.

Biggest Losses from Last Year:

MBA lost four players who are now playing for college teams. Frank Adelman, the team's best pitcher from a year ago, is gone, as well as is shortstop Andrew Harris who is now playing at Vanderbilt. Also, Jas Rader is gone, and junior Luke Colbert did not return to the team this year following a solid year last year pitching.

Biggest Question mark:

Which juniors will step up and contribute? There are seven juniors on the team including David Lee, Jackson Roberts, and William Tanner. All of them will need to contribute and find some consistency to help the team find a winning pattern.

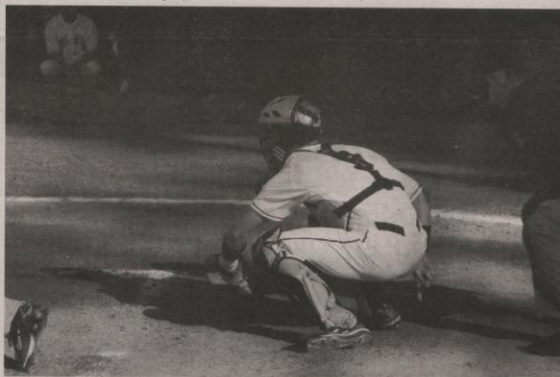
Coach Michael Anderson said of the first scrimmage, "We had four players play shortstop, four players play second base,

four players play third base, just to get a glimpse into each person's abilities." This year's team is one of the youngest in recent memory. Sophomore Joe Riegler will also play a big role on this year's squad.

The Pitching staff:

Wade Nelson will be the team's number one pitcher to start the year, with the rest of the rotation behind him still undecided. One of the few things that can be counted on for this year's team is that Nelson and catcher Hooper Paty will be two of the more experienced players on the team.

Big Red baseball should be exciting to watch this spring, if for no other reason than to see who will rise to the starting lineup. It will also be fun to watch the team's improvement from game to game as the new players become veterans. However, the success of the team will be heavily dependent on the emergence of young juniors coupled with solid leadership from the few seniors on the team. Roll Red.



Hooper Paty scoops a pitch out of the dirt.



Graduated stud pitcher, Frank Adelman, delivers a devastating pitch.

Soccer Seems Strong, Savors Support

by
Fadi Palous

News Editor and Kicker

Picture this: upwards of 18 men, thinly clad in the flimsiest of fabric, preparing for battle on Frank Andrews field. While many think this to be a scene cut out of *Braveheart* or *300*, it will, in fact, be MBA's 2009 varsity soccer team.

Led by returning captain Houston Oldham, the Big Red is poised for a break-out season that may potentially culminate in a state championship run.

Team deity and school religious icon Will O feels that this is the season for MBA soccer finally to bring Coach Lanier and Coach Cheevers (Irish) a state championship. Will O could probably win state alone, but because he's a team player, the rest of the team will have to get involved.

Brandon Dockery, second heaviest member of the soccer team, believes "We (and by we he means Will O) have the talent to win state; it's just going to take a lot of hard work and effort that has to be put in by every member of the team." Brandon intends to lose 38 pounds by tournament time to help this cause.

Losing very few starters from last year, the team looks to rally around its seniors, while asking for help from the underclassman, to win state this year. Knowing this, I delved into the scenes of MBA varsity soccer to get some juicy information on the season.

When asked about the team's goal this year, Coach Lanier punted an entire Gatorade cooler filled with ice water 67 yards

into the football field and ran away, yelling "win states." Acknowledging his new-found punting prowess, I quickly backed away, realizing that Tennessee is only one state, and, then, I began to question how the team could win multiple states. Only when I clarified with Michael Nunan what Coach Lanier was talking about did I actually understand what had just happened: "Coach likes to make words plural, but he means that MBA can win state this year with the support from fans, friends, and families, all giving us great turnout at each of our games, whether home or away, and all should bring noisemakers, Will O posters, and other sports-related paraphernalia to the games."

Stunned by how two words could mean nearly an entire paragraph's worth of reporting, I realized that Coach Lanier was right (inevitably). So, with all of this great reporting being done and said, it's clear that the team has a lot of talent from all of the grades, but in order to have that extra 12th man, the team needs support at games night in and night out to help make this an incredible season for the departing seniors and for Coach Lanier. Get those posters ready, get some air horns, and purchase lots of shiny objects to distract the Father Ryan players and help make this an awesome season for the entire team!

To find the schedule, go to MBA Athletics, Team Pages, Soccer Varsity, and pick out some dates to come and support us!



Andrew Fletcher throws the ball in, with Houston Oldham looking on.



Max Jarrel displays fancy footwork.

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Winter Sports Stats

Compiled by Kyle Brantley
Staff Writer

Ultimate Frisbee

- 1st in NATION (High Schools- upa.org). THE ENTIRE NATION
 - 5 Team Round Robin at MBA – 1st Place
 - T-Town Throwdown (College Tournament in Tuscaloosa, AL) – 10th Place
 - Indian Springs High School (W 13-2)
 - Rhodes College (W 13-7)
 - Southern Miss (W 13-4)
 - Tennessee (L 3-13)
 - Delta State (L 7-13)
 - Jacksonville State (W 13-8)
- UPA State Tournament is April 25, 2009 at USN's River Campus. The top high school team in the nation plans to take care of business and win their first state title ever.

Swimming

- Ravenwood - W(205-80)
- Webb – W(105-69)
- Franklin – W(106-47)
- Smyrna – W(127-43)
- Brentwood – W(209-91)
- Regional Swim Meet – 1st Place
- **State Meet – 2nd Place**
 - 200 Medley Team of Murfee, Lovelace, Maclin, and Davis-2nd
 - 50 Freestyle – Paschall Davis – 1st Place
 - 100 Freestyle – Paschall Davis – 1st Place
 - 200 Freestyle Relay of Davis, Lovelace, Murfee, and Werkhaven – 2nd
 - 200 Individual Medley – Chase Lovelace – 3rd Place
 - 100 Breaststroke – Chase Lovelace – 2nd Place
 - 100 Breaststroke – Jarvis Werkhaven – 4th Place
 - 100 Butterfly – Maclin Davis – 3rd Place
 - 100 Backstroke – Jack Murfee – 4th Place

Wrestling

- TSSAA State Duals—5th Place
 - Christian Brothers - L (12-45)

- 119-John Bellet defeated Blake Hataway 4-2
- 160-Daniel Todd defeated Tony Downs 8-2
- 189-Max Jarrell defeated Jake Holmes 4-1
- 215-Aaron Barrett defeated Sam Posey 4-3
- Memphis University School – W (70-8)
 - 103 - Matt Davidson (MBA) p. Chris Morgan (MUS) 5:25
 - 112 - Daniel Bellet (MBA) p. William Reid (MUS) 1:02
 - 119 - John Mark Bellet (MBA) p. Carson House (MUS) 3:27
 - 125 - Charles Herron (MBA) m.d. Eli Goldstein (MUS) 13-4
 - 130 - Mark Simpson (MBA) p. Markus Williams (MUS) 4:00
 - 145 - David Hunt (MBA) p. River Morris (MUS) 1:19
 - 152 - Kyle Garrett (MBA) wins by forfeit
 - 160 - Daniel Todd (MBA) p. Kyle Brown (MUS) 2:47
 - 171 - John Floyd (MBA) p. James Moore (MUS) 1:07
 - 189 - Max Jarrell (MBA) p. Jon Mitchell (MUS) 3:38
 - 215 - Clayton McQuiddy (MBA) p. Harrison Martin (MUS) 1:48
 - 285 - Rylan Brewer (MBA) p. Bo Hale (MUS) 2:36
- Brentwood Academy – L (35-36)
 - 112 - Daniel Bellet (MBA) p. Clyde Boswell (BA) 3:00
 - 125 - John Mark Bellet (MBA) wins by forfeit.
 - 130 - Chris Anderson (MBA) wins by forfeit
 - 140 - John Donlon (MBA) m.d. Thomas McClellan (BA) 12-3
 - 160 - Daniel Todd (MBA) p. Justin Moore (BA) 0:55
 - 171 - John Floyd (MBA) d. Michael Proctor (BA) 1-0
 - 189 - Max Jarrell (MBA) m.d. Jordan Baron (BA) 9-0

